



December 18, 2014

State Water Resources Control Board Members  
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RE: BUSINESS OWNERS SUPPORT RESTORING HEALTHY FLOWS TO THE  
LOWER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

Dear State Water Board members:

I am pleased to submit the following letter to the State Water Resources Control Board on behalf of the Tuolumne River Trust. The undersigned business owners and operators, urge the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to use its authority to set strong flow standards on the Lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries, in order to restore fisheries and recreational uses. Our businesses, while different, all rely on the health of Central Valley Rivers and the San Francisco Bay-Delta. We have endured the ongoing degradation of our waterways for years and as a result our businesses have been impacted and many of our friends have lost their livelihoods.

Healthy rivers and abundant salmon and steelhead mean business: from the docks to the upper watershed, healthy salmon and steelhead runs and wild rivers support thriving businesses. We are fishermen who catch salmon; we are processors who bring it to market; we are marinas and supporting businesses that sustain fishing jobs; we are fishing guides and charter boat operators who take more than 300,000 Californians fishing each year for salmon, sturgeon, and steelhead; we are rafting outfitters that take people on trips in the San Joaquin Valley; we are local bait and tackle shops that supply rods, reels, lures and tackle to fishermen; and we are businesses that depend on a vibrant tourism industry. By improving flows on the Lower San Joaquin River, the SWRCB can help protect and restore our jobs and livelihoods, which depend on healthy rivers and a healthy Bay-Delta.

The SWRCB has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reverse decades of declining fisheries, water quality conditions, and fresh water flow rates. Unfortunately, the SWRCB's recent draft standards for freshwater flows will do little to change the unacceptable status quo. The 25% - 45% unimpaired flow range neither adequately supports the much-needed restoration of the San Joaquin River, its tributaries, and the Bay-Delta, nor fairly weighs the needs of fisheries and recreational beneficial uses. The draft standards do not adequately consider the benefits our businesses (and others like us) receive from a functioning river ecosystem or the significant economic benefits we provide to California's economy when our businesses are healthy.

We urge the SWRCB to require that:

- At least half (and as close to 60% as possible) of the San Joaquin River's natural flow reach the Delta during the first six months of each year.
- To the maximum extent possible, winter-spring flows track natural patterns (magnitude, duration, timing, and frequency) of freshwater flow.
- Adaptive management of flows and other non-flow restoration measures focus on attainment of specific and measureable biological and physical outcomes (such as the CVPIA/AFRP anadromous fish doubling targets).
- Flows in summer and fall be sufficient to maintain fish/wildlife, water quality, and recreational benefits in the Bay-Delta, lower San Joaquin, and San Joaquin tributaries.

We are deeply concerned that the current draft flow standards will basically enshrine the status quo of disappearing fisheries, deteriorating water quality, and declining opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the Delta, the San Joaquin River, and the San Joaquin's tributaries. The status quo threatens the survival of our businesses and all those that depend on healthy rivers.

Requiring adequate flows in the lower San Joaquin River will support conditions that our businesses will benefit from, including:

- Restoration of up to 100,000 Chinook salmon every year.
- Restoration of steelhead and sturgeon, sought-after sport fish that are now listed as endangered species throughout the Central Valley.
- Improved water quality in the lower San Joaquin River and southern Delta for agricultural, municipal, and recreational use.
- Improved river conditions in the San Joaquin and its tributaries that encourage and support fishing, boating, and other non-consumptive uses of the river.

Our businesses have continually suffered from poor water quality and flow conditions, while other businesses have benefitted from the diversion of too much water from the Central Valley Rivers. From 2008-2009, California's salmon fishery was completely closed for the first time in our great state's history, with devastating impacts to thousands of men and women whose livelihood depends on the salmon fishery. Similarly, tourism is California's biggest industry and it is hampered when rivers have too little water and too few fish. We hope the SWRCB will restore a long-lost balance between those who extract water from the River and Delta, and those, like us, whose businesses and livelihoods depend on leaving more water flowing from the southern Sierra Nevada to the Sea.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Peter Drekmeier, Policy Director

Business Signatories:

**Commercial and Sport Fishing**

Larry Collins, President  
Crab Boat Owners Association  
San Francisco, CA

Joe Stoops, President  
Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Association  
Santa Cruz, CA

Mike Hudson, President  
Small Boat Commercial Salmon Fishermen's Association  
Berkeley, CA

Kathy Fosmark, Board of Directors Co-Chair  
Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries  
Monterey, CA

Tom McCray, Board Member  
Fishermen's Association of Moss Landing  
Moss Landing, CA

Chuck Cappatto, President  
Bodega Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association  
Bodega Bay, CA

Stephanie Mutz, President  
Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA

Chris W. Lawson, Owner  
F/V Seaward  
Bodega Bay, CA

Pietro Parravano, Owner  
F/V Anne B  
Half Moon Bay, CA

Ben Platt, Owner  
F/V Seastar  
Half Moon Bay, CA

Roger Thomas, Captain  
Sport Vessel Salty Lady  
Sausalito, CA

Jacky Douglas, Captain  
Sport Vessel Wacky Jacky  
San Francisco, CA

**Outdoor Recreation Companies**

David Wells, Owner  
101 Surf Sports  
San Rafael, CA

Nate Rangel, Owner  
Adventure Connection  
Lotus, CA

Scott Armstrong, Co-Owner  
All Outdoors California Whitewater Rafting  
Walnut Creek, CA

Steve Welch, President  
ARTA River Trips  
Groveland, CA

Galen Weston, Owner  
Blue Oak Farm  
Sonora, CA

Keith Miller, President  
California Canoe & Kayak, Inc.  
Oakland, CA

Jeff Kellogg, President  
Clavey River Equipment  
Petaluma, CA

Dan Crandall, Owner  
Current Adventures  
Lotus, CA

George Wendt, President  
O.A.R.S. Companies  
Angels Camp, CA

Ken Elie, President  
Outdoor Pro Shop  
Cotati, CA

Rob and Regina Hirsch  
Mountain Sage Nursery  
Groveland, CA

Mike Martell, Owner  
Pacific River Supply  
El Sobrante, CA

Michelle Eighmey, Sales and Marketing Coordinator  
Royal Robbins  
Modesto, CA

Bob Licht, Owner  
Sea Trek  
Sausalito, CA

Marty McDowell, Owner  
Sierra Mac River Trips  
Groveland, CA

Tom Zralka, Owner  
Sonoma Sport  
Sonoma, CA

Ashley Lee, Outreach Specialist  
Stockton REI  
Stockton, CA

Shiloh Faust, President  
Sunshine Rafting Adventures  
Oakdale, CA

Dan Crandall, President  
The River Store  
Lotus, CA

Bob Ferguson, President  
Zephyr Whitewater Expeditions  
Columbia, CA

**Fish Distributors, Sellers, Restaurants, and Associated Businesses**

Mike Crumrine, General Manager  
Cook's Seafood Restaurant and Market  
Menlo Park, CA

Kenny Belov, Co-Owner  
FISH. Restaurant  
Sausalito, CA

Crystal Sanders, Manager  
TwoXSea Fish Distributor  
San Francisco, CA

Troy Campbell, Executive Director  
Fishermen's Wharf Community Benefit District  
San Francisco, CA

Paul Johnson, Owner  
Monterey Fish  
San Francisco, CA

Yvette Hudson, Co-Owner  
Hudson Fish  
Berkeley, CA